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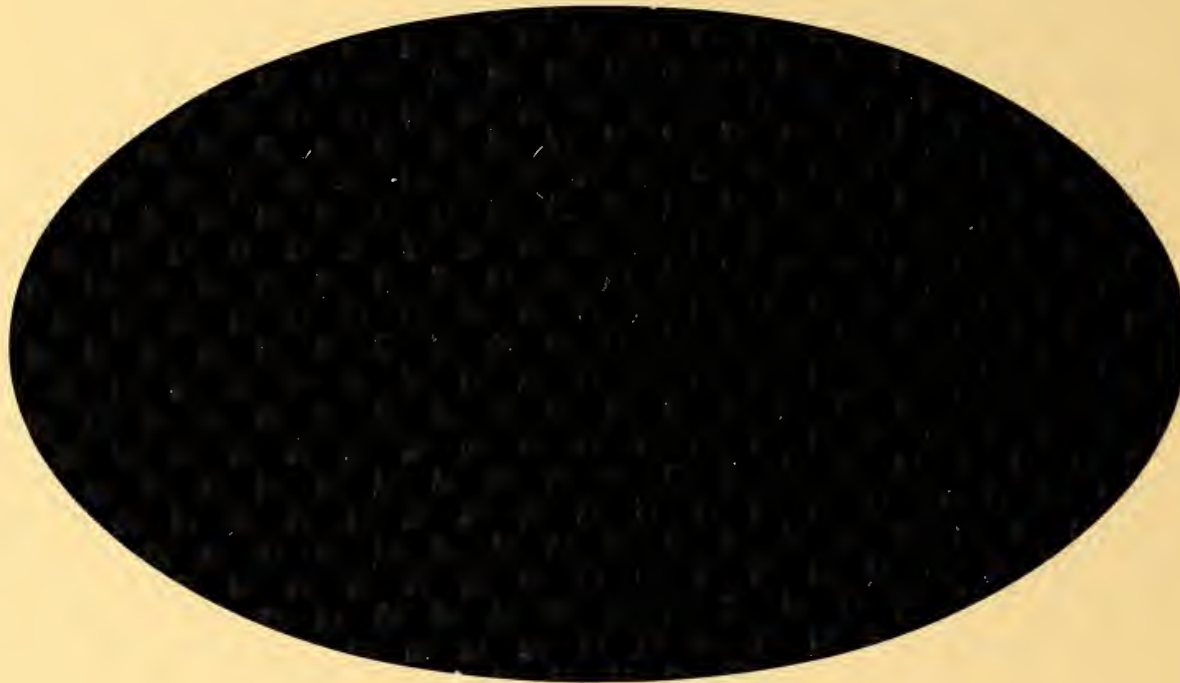
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1856–1981

The National Bank and Trust Company of Norwich
celebrating 125 years of service to the community



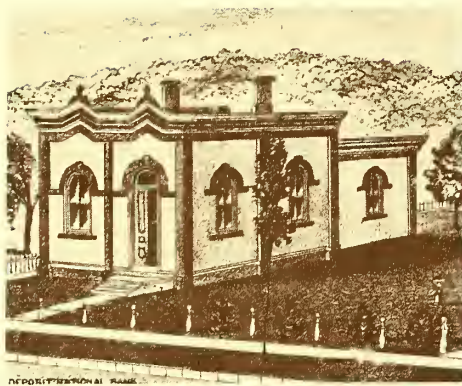
It is with grateful appreciation that we acknowledge the interest, support and assistance of many individuals who helped make this historical vignette of NBT and its communities possible: photos throughout the book were obtained from a number of people throughout the area; the Office of the Chenango County Historian loaned photos, including a glass plate negative from which the cover photo was reproduced, as well as editorial assistance; community research and articles were written by Lee Morgan-Davy of Guilford; graphics and layout were designed by Lorie Callahan of Norwich; typesetting is by Utica Typesetting Company; printing is by Chenango Union Printing, Inc. of Norwich.



Now the home of the Victory Markets warehouse, the Borden Condensery at the north end of Silver Street and Borden Avenue in Norwich saw many busy mornings as milk wagons rounded the ramp for unloading. Built in 1901, it was used in that capacity until 1953. One product developed during this period was a special formula condensed milk ordered by Admiral Richard Byrd for both his pole expeditions. Gail Borden, called the father of modern dairy industry and inventor of condensed milk, was born in 1801 within a mile of the Norwich condensery. Patenting his process for evaporation of milk in a vacuum in 1856, Borden said, "I tried and failed and tried again." Many plants such as this were built throughout the country as Borden's process revolutionized the dairy industry.

Mae Smith
Chenango County Historian
1981

The Bank in the Community, Yesterday . . . and Today



Early Banks: The Knapp Bank, Deposit; interior at 18 South Broad Street, Norwich; the First National Bank in Bainbridge; postal employees pose in front of the National Bank of New Berlin; exterior of the Home Office at 18 South Broad Street, Norwich; the Sidney National Bank; the Farmers National Bank, Deposit.

Little could the Norwich Community leaders realize when they met in an early March evening in 1856 that they were laying the foundation for a financial institution that for a century and a quarter has made a vital contribution to the growth and prosperity of the county and people it serves.

The Bank's doors opened on July 15 in a small store adjacent to the Benedict Block in downtown Norwich. Later, as the scope of its business grew, the bank expanded to occupy the neighboring building, from which it served a growing market area until the present Home Office was constructed in 1956 at the time of its 100th anniversary.

The first president was James Smith; the first cashier was Warren Newton; capital was \$125,000. The Newton family continued active association with the bank over the intervening years. Howard, a nephew of Warren, served as president from 1910 to 1916, and today the bank is privileged to number among its shareowners, direct descendants of those founding businessmen . . . the fifth generation representing ownership of the first Bank of Norwich.

The closing decade and a half of the 1800's was outstanding in the economic development of the region that today, a century later, has become the NBT market area. This period saw the establishment of a variety of well diversified manufacturing plants throughout the area. A significant number of their successors survive today providing substantial employment for those who prefer to live in the quiet friendly atmosphere of our small towns and villages.

The Bank grew and prospered with its communities. In March 1906, its capital stock was increased from the original \$125,000 to \$300,000. In 1907, a new building was erected in Norwich, and in the same year, its interest department was opened, where, it was stated, "savings would be cared for with security and reasonable profit."

In 1918, it became one of the first national banks in New York State to apply for and receive trust department powers, and on December 1, 1925, its name officially became "The National Bank and Trust Company of Norwich." Four years later, capital stock was again increased, from \$300,000 to \$400,000.

In 1937, The Sherburne National Bank and The First National Bank of Earlville became the first offices of NBT.

Another consolidation was effected the following year with merger of The First National Bank of Bainbridge. In 1945, the Otselic Valley National Bank joined the Norwich banking family, and in 1946, the National Bank of New Berlin merged into the growing financial institution.

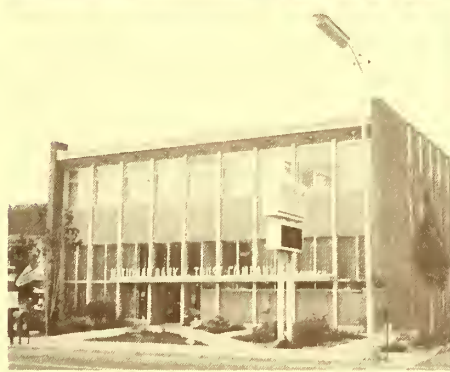
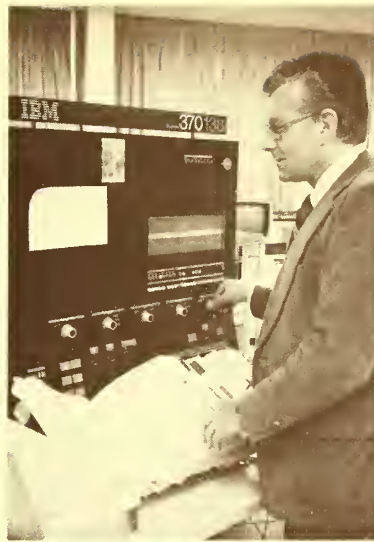
In 1938, the Bank established a Farm Department; among the earliest, if not actually the first in the nation to do so. In 1946, a Consumer Loan Department was established.

Other mergers followed: the First National Bank of Grand Gorge in 1957, the First National Bank of Afton in 1962, the Peoples National Bank of Margaretville in 1963, the Farmers National Bank of Deposit in 1971, the First National Bank of Newark Valley in 1973, the National Bank of Hobart in 1974, and the First National Bank in Sidney in 1978. Two additional offices were acquired through these mergers: the Maine Office of Newark Valley and Sidney Plaza Office of Sidney. Offices in the shopping plazas north and south of Norwich were also established.

NBT's initial step toward computerization took place in 1964. In 1965, a Data Processing Center was erected adjacent to the Home Office in Norwich. Subsequent expansion of the center took place in 1977, doubling the work space. Today, the Bank utilizes an IBM 370/138 to process its internal functions, customer service work for a number of area banks, businesses and industry.

In 1936, the last year the Bank operated as a unit bank, capital funds were just over \$644,000. By 1960, these had increased to approximately \$3.5 million, and in 1970, to more than \$7.5 million. At the year end 1980, capital of the Bank was in excess of \$25.5 million, deposits were just under \$225 million, loans were approximately \$152 million, and total resources were in excess of \$254 million.

The National Bank and Trust Company of Norwich serves business and industry, farmers and individuals through 17 offices located in four Central New York counties, Chenango, Delaware, Broome and Tioga. It is privileged to be part of a progressive area with a bright future.



People behind the scenes at NBT: operating the IBM 370/138 computer; check filing and statement preparation; walk-up window at the Margaretville Office; counseling with customers is an important part of a banker's job; the Home Office, South Broad Street, Norwich; a proof operator processes many thousands of items each day; for many customers, a teller "is" the bank.

Afton

Long before the first white men settled in Afton, it was the site of the Indian village, Cunahunta. This was destroyed by a small Patriot army in 1778, and by 1790 settlers had already established a school in their rapidly growing hamlet, known variously as South Jericho and South Bainbridge. Over the years, local pride and intense rivalry culminated in the "secession" of South Bainbridge from Bainbridge in 1857, with the former being renamed Afton.

Like many early villages, the economy of Afton received a big boost with the coming of the railroad, which reached there in 1867. A brisk trade ensued, with lumber, dairy products and produce leaving, and dry goods, groceries, and farm machinery arriving. Changing conditions and competition in the world at large gradually led this agricultural area to concentrate on the production of milk for export to New York City, and a subsequent need to import grain from the west. This, in turn, gave rise to the development of milk stations to handle the milk, and feed companies to supply the grain, both important factors in the growth of Afton.

Afton has had three banks over the years, the first a short-lived endeavor in 1875, another from 1876 until after World War I. The First National Bank of Afton, established in 1920, became a member of the NBT team in 1962.

In the late 1800's, the village of Afton was famous throughout south-central New York State for its baseball teams and its town band. Afton Union School was the first in the area to make music a part of its curriculum and to have a regular music teacher.

The Afton Fair and horseracing have become a tradition in the area, from the efforts of the "Afton Agricultural Society" of 1858-1868 to the "Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Society" started in 1889, and carrying on to the Afton Fair of today.



The Mormon House, Fair Grounds, circa 1920's, the crossroads filling station was typical of nearly every country community; the First National Bank building and adjacent grocery which was destroyed by fire in 1969... the enlarged and remodelled bank now occupies both sites; the Band Stand on Main Street.

Bainbridge

When settlers in Central New York State first legally crossed the "Line of Property" marking the designated eastern limits of the Indian Domain, it was to occupy lands purchased by Governor George Clinton from the Tuscarora and Oneida Tribes for the state. Priority was given to persons dispossessed in a dispute between New York State and Vermont, and referred to as "Vermont Sufferers," who received grants along the Susquehanna River. Many of these families became prominent in developing the area.

Although christened Bainbridge in 1814, after Commodore Wm. S. Bainbridge, the town was originally known as Jericho, and its center was located somewhat further north than it now is. However, the presence of Baron de Zeng — a wealthy naturalized citizen — with his heavy investment in turnpikes and his construction of the first local bridge across the Susquehanna River connecting two turnpikes resulted in the village being located at the terminus.

The fertility of the Susquehanna Valley and the surrounding hills and valleys enabled the area to develop a highly successful dairy industry. This, in turn, both inspired and supported such businesses as The American Separator Co., The Dry Milk Co., The National Milk Sugar Co., and a company from Vermont, The Casein Co. All but the first later became subsidiaries of the rapidly expanding Borden Company.

The Village of Bainbridge grew rapidly, and in 1881 The First National Bank of Bainbridge was established. After 57 years of service to the community they moved to further improve their financial services by joining The National Bank and Trust Company of Norwich.

Agriculture still plays an important role in the life of Bainbridge, including the raising of livestock and food crops as well as the dairy industry. And the gazebo in the tree-shaded park is still the site of old-time band concerts, as Bainbridge continues to grow from its strong roots.



A Bainbridge street bustles with activity, family groups enjoyed camping in a quiet country grove; the Central Hotel, now known as Jericho Inn, has served the traveler from its earliest days as a "post road" tavern; a horse-drawn wagon moves briskly along an unpaved street; a variety of early transportation was assembled for this photo.



This Front Street scene looking west indicates a brisk business with the bank towers appearing in the second block; the many lakes of the area, including Oquaga Lake, form the nucleus for Deposit tourist trade; this covered bridge, an outstanding example of the bridge builders art, once spanned the Delaware at Deposit.

Deposit

The Village of Deposit was once known as Cookhouse, a corruption of the Indian word "Coke-ose." The council grounds of the Delaware (Leni Le napes) was nearby. The Indians had farmed the area and they had a burying ground there. Deposit received its present name from the simple fact that it was the place where quantities of lumber were deposited from the Susquehanna Valley and other places. Being located in a rough lumbering area and situated on the Delaware River, a major waterway to Philadelphia, Deposit was a natural port for the rafting of logs downstream.

For a time, farming was fairly important to the area, too, and Deposit prospered. In 1811, it became the first village in the county to be incorporated, and in 1818 the first church was built. In 1835, ground was broken for the construction of the New York and Erie Railroad.

In 1854, Charles Knapp organized the Knapp Bank, which he actually ran from an office in his large, gracious home. In 1856, it became the Knapp Bros. Bank, and a new building was constructed on adjacent property. Although the Knapp Bros. Bank failed in 1909, that same year The Farmers National Bank opened. In 1971, The Farmers National Bank became the 12th office of The National Bank and Trust Company of Norwich.

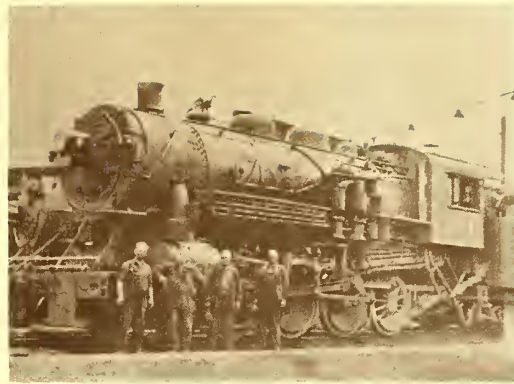
Despite the fact that farming is not the major occupation in the Deposit area, the largest milk processing and hauling business in New York State has its headquarters there. Several lakes in the vicinity promote a thriving tourist business, while the village is home to many people who commute to nearby cities to work. Deposit boasts two printing companies, and other business and industry providing stable employment. And an active Historical Society, with the aid of generous gifts, has nearly restored the old Knapp Bank building, which will be used as a local museum.

Earlville

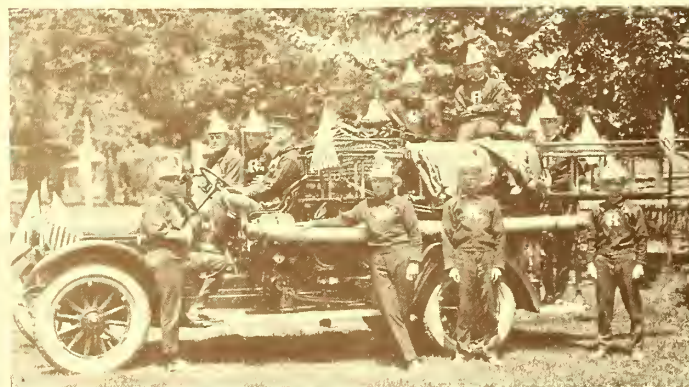
The first persons to settle in the vicinity of Earlville arrived in 1792, with other groups coming to the area in 1797 and after. One settlement, at the north end of the present village was, for some time, called Red City due to the inordinate amount of red paint applied to the various buildings there. Another area was temporarily known as Teekyville. However, the advent of the Chenango Canal in 1832 was such a boon to the business of the village that the residents renamed it "Earlville" in honor of the man in charge of building the canal there, Jonas Earl.

Even more important to the village's development were the railroads. The first of these, the Utica, Chenango and Susquehanna R.R., opened in 1868, followed the next year by the Midland R.R. and in 1873 by Syracuse and Chenango Valley R.R. During that era there were six tanneries and eight grist mills within six miles of the village. Over the years, Earlville has been the home of several types of furniture factories, making chairs, desks, tables and numerous other pieces of furniture. It was the home of the "Parson Low Down Wagon," an innovative variation of the flatbed wagon which sold world wide—and the business where electric lights first made their appearance in Chenango County. The York rake, famous the country over for road work, was invented in Earlville.

The First National Bank of Earlville was established December 30, 1890, with a capital of \$50,000. For several years it was housed in the Douglas Block but in 1923, with much ceremony, it was moved into its own building. It is reported that the first depositor in the new building was a Mrs. Sampson, age 95. In 1937, The First National Bank of Earlville became part of NBT and as such, continues to be an active participant in the community of Earlville, "Small Town U.S.A."



Railroads were a vital link between communities such as Earlville and the Nation; opera houses brought a variety of cultural experiences to many communities; the Opera House is near the end of this business block, students and teachers posed for this photo; this "toll house" on the Chenango/Madison line east of Earlville, was among the last of its kind in the area.



Bringing in the ice was frequently a commercial venture as in this photo; this miniscule bank stood at the village crossroads in the early days; area firemen have always enjoyed an opportunity to show off bright trucks and uniforms; this circa World War I event was attended by virtually the entire community

Grand Gorge

Nestled carefully in a narrow valley between rather high peaks of the Delaware Hills at the headwaters of the East Branch of the Delaware River is the Village of Grand Gorge. South of the village is a magnificent gorge offering a sweeping view of the Catskill Mountains. First settled in 1786 by John More, it was called Moresville until 1875 when the postal department, in an effort to avoid confusion with similarly named offices, changed the name to the very appropriate Grand Gorge. John More lived to be 95 years old, and at the time of his death left 222 descendants. For many years, the More family maintained a tavern to house weary travelers on their way through the valley.

The Ulster and Delaware Railroad (now the Catskill Mountain Branch of the New York-Penn Central), reached Grand Gorge in 1872 and opened the way to travel as well as commerce. The village was on one of the great thoroughfares from the Hudson River to southern New York, and the beauty of the area drew many visitors to Grand Gorge. At one time, the surrounding area was a leader in the dairy industry, shipping milk and dairy products into New York City via the railroad, with Grand Gorge depot being the closest one for nearby Gilboa and Prattsville.

Grand Gorge enjoys a brisk tourist trade, and has all the facilities necessary to support this business as well as to benefit its permanent residents. The area provides water and electric power for metropolitan New York City through Gilboa Reservoir, one of a number of similar reservoirs located throughout the Catskills, and Gilboa-Blenheim Pumped Power Project, both located nearby.

The Grand Gorge National Bank was organized in 1905 and a building erected that summer. In 1957 this bank became an office of NBT.

Hobart

The area around the Village of Hobart was first settled prior to the Revolution, and like many other communities at the time, was quite disrupted by that dispute. As peace returned so did the settlers, and a busy settlement soon evolved. Nearby falls of the Delaware River offered a ready source of power, and a variety of mills were constructed. For many years, the village was known as Waterville. Subsequently, it was called Tinkerville because, according to an old account, "a man being here appropriated to his use a full set of tinker's tools belonging to another man, with which he set up business at this place." However, the establishment of a post office called for more dignity and the name Hobart, after a Bishop Hobart, was suggested and accepted. In 1888, the village was incorporated.

Many industries flourished in Hobart prior to 1800. There were saw, grist and carding mills, a woolen factory, a cabinet shop and distillery. Tanneries and blacksmith shops sprang up, and a trip hammer shop, which made the first cut nails manufactured in the United States, was established.

Dairying played a large part in the development of the Hobart area. In the late 1890's, many farmers demonstrated their independent natures by withdrawing their patronage from the local creamery and forming their own co-operative, building and furnishing a plant to process milk.

In 1863, the First National Bank of Hobart was established, conducting a successful banking business until its voluntary liquidation in 1881. The National Bank of Hobart was organized in 1890. In 1959, a new building was constructed to accommodate its expanding banking activities, and in 1974, the Hobart bank joined the growing NBT family.



Horse power was utilized to saw lumber; water power provided energy for many purposes; Hanford Mills used water power to saw logs as well as manufacture fine millwork; a portion of Hobart's business section; a well-trained volunteer fire department was vital; the Ulster and Delaware Depot, Hobart; the scenic Delaware River at Hobart.

Maine

The naming of the Village of Maine preceded that of the Town of Maine by several years, but a consensus has yet to be reached as to the origin of the name.

Like its neighbor, Newark Valley, Maine was part of the Boston Purchase, and was settled early in the 19th century with an inn, the Hathaway House, built around 1810 (and still lived in) and a school around 1815. A number of old buildings in Maine constructed in the early 1800's are still standing.

The many forests around Maine furnished large amounts of lumber to be moved down Nanticoke Creek to the Susquehanna River and points south, as well as abundant supply of hemlock bark for a large tannery. The principal industry of the area for many years was lumbering, with several sawmills, both water and steam powered, kept busy up and down the valley. When most of the timber had been utilized, the land was put under cultivation and dairy farming became a chief means of livelihood in the area.

The Village (and town) of Maine is justly proud of its community band, which has been in existence for well over one hundred years. Once common to every community, regardless of size, the Maine Community Band now is one of the few such organizations still playing regularly for appropriate local events.

Today the Village of Maine not only serves as a center for the farms in the area but also as a home for the many people who commute from the area to the Triple Cities and Ithaca to work in the numerous large industries there. In 1970, the First National Bank of Newark Valley established its first branch office in a modern facility in Maine. In 1973, this office joined NBT through the merger of its parent Newark Valley bank, expanding banking services available to area residents, businesses and farm operators.



The Mill Dam; the Dayton Sisters deliver milk to the creamery; the wellhouse still remains on this fine old farm property; the Norton Wagon Shop is presently being restored by the Maine-Nanticoke Historical Society; Pitcher's Grist Mill, still standing, once made and sold Sunrise Pancake Flour.

Margaretville

Margaretville, once known as “the metropolis of Middletown Center,” is located on the East Branch of the Delaware River. It was named in honor of a granddaughter of Chancellor Livingston, who inherited the tract of land from her mother.

The first person to settle at the present site of Margaretville did so in 1794, yet by the year 1843, there were still only three buildings there. However, one of the occupants was an enterprising gentleman named Dr. Orson M. Allaben who was able to persuade people that this was the proper site for a village. By 1845, the nucleus of a village had, indeed, been formed: stores, a post office building, and a cabinet making and undertaking establishment had joined the busy hotel.

Despite the fact that the village was located on a river, water power was not utilized until 1863. The establishment of a tannery, a cooperage, and a foundry followed in rapid succession.

Margaretville was a center of attraction for visitors from New York as early as 1871, when the Ulster and Delaware Railroad was completed, and telegraph lines came to the area. Its popularity as a summer resort has continued over the years.

The village incorporated in 1875, in 1885 a water company was organized, and in 1889 the Catskill Mountain Agricultural Society was formed. This group purchased and improved 26 acres of river flat, and in August of that year held the first fair, an annual event until about 1918. A state bank was organized in 1891, and established in “... a fine building... on the corner of Main and Bridge Streets.” In 1963, the Peoples National Bank of Margaretville became an office of NBT, and in 1979, moved to new quarters across and down the street.



A day at The Peoples National Bank of Margaretville; this foundry scene is typical of many throughout the area; an exterior view of the Bank, with the Post Office next door and the newspaper office on the second floor; the village sidewalks were made of planks at the time of this photo; proud owners of motor cars positioned them carefully for this photo.

Newark Valley

When members of the Sullivan Expedition returned to Massachusetts from the Southern Tier, they extolled the virtues of the lands through which they had passed. Tales of the magnificent trees and fertile soils, the plentiful water supply, and the abundant wildlife soon inspired the formation of a corporation called the "Boston Purchase Company," for the purpose of purchasing some of that land. This acreage, bought from the government of Massachusetts in 1785, was known as the Boston Purchase, and old deeds still refer to lots in the Boston Purchase.

The first settlers in the Newark Valley area were widely scattered farmers. It was not until the arrival of families interested in trade, such as merchants, millers, and innkeepers that a cohesive settlement was formed and the nucleus of the Village of Newark Valley came into being. Because of the easily developed water power nearby to run sawmills, lumbering soon became the chief industry of the area. Lumber was hauled to the Susquehanna River at Owego, and then transported by raft to Binghamton.

The village flourished. In 1883, the Newark Valley Wagon Company produced 300 cutters and 100 wagons in one year. A sense of the life of the village at that time may be gained through the street signs—Marble Street, where a large Marble Shop was in business, and Silk Street, where silk worms were once raised commercially. And then there is Whig Street, named in recognition of the political affiliation of an early settler.

In 1911, the First National Bank of Newark Valley was organized, opening for business in 1912. In 1956, a new bank building was constructed, closely followed by further improvements and additions, and in 1970 a branch bank was opened in Maine, New York. In 1973, the First National Bank of Newark Valley merged with NBT, thereby expanding services to customers.

The members of the Boston Purchase Company chose well when they selected land in the Newark Valley area as an investment in the company's future growth and prosperity.



In every community, the blacksmith performed a vital task; Newark Valley from West Hill about the turn of the century; 1880 was the date on this photo of the first annual fair in Newark Valley, a festive occasion despite lack of smiles on those posing; the Newark Valley Trout Ponds were renowned throughout the area.

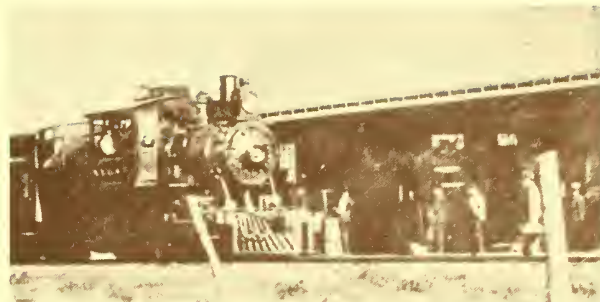
New Berlin

Although the Village of New Berlin, originally named Lancaster, was not incorporated until 1816, the first pioneers settled there around 1790, building their dwellings on either side of the brook that ran through the future village. Water power played an important part in the industrial development of the area, and before long the stream that originally supplied transportation for the farmers taking their grain long distances to be ground into meal was supplying the power to grind it locally. The community was soon served by mills for making paper, pressing oil and cider, and sawing wood. Manufacturers were turning out such diverse products as guns, ropes, shingles, furniture, spinning wheels and handmade nails.

A dam on the river, diverting water through a canal to a small building, created power for a cotton spinning mill. These yarns were, in turn, handwoven into cotton fabric. A new stone factory, built in 1827, housed water-powered looms, and another step in the industrial revolution was taken.

One of the few ways of making cash money to pay for land in pioneer times was by boiling black salts as the farmers cleared that land, and selling them to an ashery to be made into potash and pearlash. The story is that the location of the ashery's potash kettles in early New Berlin village caused the main street to be offset from a straight course.

The National Bank of New Berlin, which joined the NBT family in 1946, was organized June 24, 1863. And in 1896, the Preferred Mutual Fire Insurance Company was established by Frank E. Holmes. New Berlin is still the site of its home office. The lovely home built by Horace O. Moss in 1831, is now owned by Preferred Mutual, and known as Preferred Manor. It has been restored and placed on the National Register of Historic Sites. It is fitting that some part of this historic village received national recognition.



No. 10, 4-4-0 at S New Berlin



O & W Engine No. 10 at the South New Berlin depot; the Condensery Dam at New Berlin; most goods were moved to and from the depot in horsedrawn conveyances as in this O & W Station at New Berlin; the excellent quality of stone foundation work is clearly shown in this photo of the rebuilding of the Eagle Inn; the New Eagle Hotel, New Berlin.

Norwich

Though the first settlers in the Norwich area arrived around 1788, the beautiful Chenango River Valley had long been the site of numerous and prosperous Indian settlements. The village was incorporated in 1816, and 98 years later became a city, the only city in Chenango County.

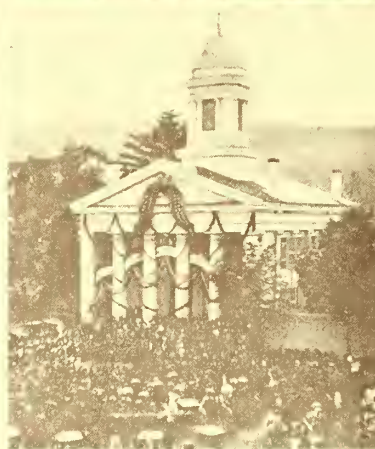
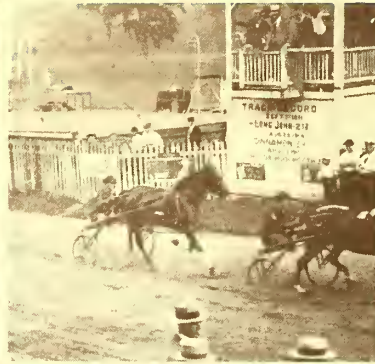
Strong rivalry existed between residents of Norwich and Oxford to the south, and for a time the County Court alternated between North Norwich and Oxford. That is, until Peter Guernsey, a well-to-do landowner, offered in 1807, to provide the land for all county buildings if Norwich became the County seat. The Guernsey family also left to the City the family homestead and the ground surrounding it, now known as West Side Park. Another noted local family, the Stephen Steere's, donated the land that has since become East Side Park. The center-city parks are a reminder to present-day residents of the rich and colorful history of the early Norwich community. In 1837, the Chenango County Court House was constructed. Restoration was completed in 1980, and this handsome structure is among those listed in the National Register of Historic Sites.

The construction of the Chenango Canal in 1833, and the coming of the railroad in 1868, contributed to the rapid growth of the area.

The growing community had another need, and in 1856 village leaders responded by organizing the Bank of Norwich. In 1865, it applied for and received a national bank charter. Its purpose was the same then as now, to "be an integral part of the social fabric of the community by assisting in the financial, industrial and agricultural development of the area it serves."

An era of remarkable growth for the Norwich area began in 1885, with the establishment of The Norwich Pharmacal Company. The Maydole hammer had already made Norwich noted as the home of the "best hammer that's made," and other industries, including Craine silos, Bennett-Ireland Foundry, The Norwich Knitting Company and Norwich Wire Works, provided employment opportunities for the spreading community.

Norwich has continued as the hub of Chenango County, and the center of commerce and industry.



An elegantly-dressed young lady out for a Sunday bike ride; racing at the fair; since 1837, the Chenango County Courthouse has been a focal point in Norwich; South Broad Street looking south; Buell Brothers taxi in front of East Side Park; a horse-drawn carriage moves past the Palmer House; the Lyon Brook Bridge near Norwich.

Sherburne

Few places today can claim a hymn as the genesis of their name, but the fondness of the early pioneers for the hymn, "Sherburne," is credited as one of the legendary reasons for Sherburne's designation.

Since the establishment of the first permanent settlement in 1793, Sherburne has grown and prospered. The fertile land which originally attracted settlers to the area provided a firm agricultural base for an expanding economy. The many streams supplied power for a variety of early industries, including saw, grist, and woolen mills, carding factories and a machine shop. Later years saw the birth of the Gaines Dog Food Company and the establishment of several industries, such as the Utica Knitting Mill, now the Chesebrough-Ponds plant, and the TACO plant.

The commencement of the Chenango Canal in 1833 introduced an era of increased trade and growth for Sherburne, which continued with the advent of the Utica, Chenango and Susquehanna Railroad in 1868. The opening of the latter was the occasion for a grand celebration, with guests arriving from near and far. An estimated 15,000 people were given free dinners accompanied by lengthy speeches.

For many years, growing, harvesting and trading in hops were major elements in the economy of Sherburne and the surrounding area, including Smyrna and Sherburne Four Corners. Old editions of *The Sherburne News* carried a regular news item on the status of hops and the hops market.

This growing community supported a bank as early as 1862, when a State Bank entitled "Joshua Pratt Company's Bank" first opened. This was succeeded in 1865 by the Sherburne National Bank, of which *The Sherburne News* of March 13, 1897 wrote: "A good banker once said that the Sherburne National Bank was the most conservative and the best bank in the State of New York." In 1937, the Sherburne National Bank became an office of NBT, still sharing in and supporting the growth of the area.



Rexford Falls, Sherburne, was a noted vacation/recreation spot; the Spring House at Rexford Falls attracted guests from a wide area; Paddleford's taxi provided vital local transportation in the Sherburne area; Knitting Mill employees took time out to assemble for a company photo; attention was on the photographer in this East State Street scene; the D. L. & W. Station in Sherburne; hops were a major industry throughout the area.

Sidney

Horses and airplanes—a delightful contrast to spark the imagination, and two important facets of Sidney's history.

When the Rev. Wm. Johnston and son arrived in the area in 1773, they chose Sidney for their place of settlement. Although Indian troubles accompanying the Revolutionary War necessitated departure of many settlers, including the Johnston family, most of them returned in 1784, followed by an influx of new settlers.

For several years Sidney was outpaced in growth by its near neighbors, Unadilla and Bainbridge. However, the arrival of two railroads, the Albany and Susquehanna (later to become the Delaware and Hudson) in 1886 and the New York, Oswego and Midland (later the New York, Ontario and Western) wrought a drastic change. The village was incorporated in 1888, and by 1895 it was an industrial center. There were several mills, including Clark Silk Mill, the Glass Works, Woodward Works, and Novelty Works, several cigar factories and a creamery; in that year the Cortland Cart and Carriage Co. decided to move to Sidney from Cortland.

Sidney had the first organized police force in Delaware Co. It was also the home of the Troop C, N.Y.S. Police. Captain Daniel E. Fox, one of the first men to join the newly formed State Police, took command of Troop C in 1921. His troop became famous for their trick riding, earning many trophies. Known as "The Spotted Horse Troop," they even performed annually in Madison Square Garden.

In 1927, Scintilla magnetos manufactured in Sidney, helped Charles A. Lindbergh fly to Paris, and the magneto business was off to a flying start. Scintilla was purchased by Bendix Aviation Corp. in 1929.

Other Sidney businesses include Keith Clark, the world's leading calendar manufacturer, Uni-Lam, and Railcon. This progressive community also boasts a modern airport. The First National Bank in Sidney merged with NBT in 1978.



Daniels Boating and Bathing Resort on the Susquehanna at Sidney; Captain Fox and his trick riders, Troop C, New York State Police at Sidney; cart tracks make interesting patterns at the River Bridge in Sidney; a wreck at the D & H yards in April 1909; local VIP's pose in their Hatfield Suburban, manufactured in Sidney by the Cortland Cart and Carriage Co.

South Otselic

"The Fishing Line Capital of the World"—that's the official title of South Otselic, as designated by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, on the 150th Anniversary of the Gladding Corporation in 1966. The rope-making business first started by John Gladding in 1816 was expanded by his son, James, to include a fishing line business. Around 1819, grandson Ben moved the company from Pharsalia to South Otselic, renamed it B. F. Gladding, and started adding machinery to perfect the manufacturing of fishing line. Today the Gladding Corporation is an international business, manufacturing a variety of sporting items besides fishing line, and is the oldest manufacturer of sporting goods continuously in business since its founding. A Museum of Sport Fishing has been established in the old Octagon house constructed by Cortland and Leroy Newton in the 1860's, and which is now included in the National Register of Historic Sites.

Not being on a canal or railroad line didn't impair South Otselic's early growth or industry. One of the largest and most unique stores in the area, the "Mammoth," opened for business in 1890. The store was designed by the owner, Frank Cox, who employed over 60 people in its construction. It was a true department store, housing clothing, shoes, dry goods, groceries, household goods, a drug store and an ice cream parlor. Seven clerks were employed full-time, serving an area many miles in circumference. When local businessmen organized the first bank in 1905, its office was in the Cox Store. It began as a depository for the Gladding Corporation, whose treasurer was tired of keeping company funds in a wall safe in his home. In 1945, the Otselic Valley National Bank, still housed in the Cox Block, merged into NBT.

South Otselic is also well-known as the hometown of Grace Brown, whose tragic death served as the basis for *An American Tragedy*, Theodore Dreiser's famous novel exposing the problems of sweatshops common throughout the nation at the time.

Today the hamlet of South Otselic continues to serve the inhabitants of the lovely Otselic Valley, and welcomes thousands of visitors yearly to its widely known museum.



Prize animals proudly displayed by an elderly farmer from a nearby community; this family group took time to pose outside their village home on a brisk winter day; an August day in South Otselic some 80 years ago; the Mammoth Store built by Frank Cox in 1890 still houses a number of businesses, including the bank; South Otselic was a small, but busy community at the time of this photo.



NEW HORIZONS

An anniversary milestone provides an opportunity to look ahead as well as to assess the past. We have been reminded, during the preparation of this nostalgic glimpse into yesteryear, of the broad scope of change that has occurred throughout the NBT market area and beyond. Institutions such as the Bank are a reflection of the community they serve. Any institution, whatever its purpose, must anticipate change, and it must respond to it with the right products and services, with creativity, and above all, profitably.

The National Bank and Trust Company of Norwich is endowed with a rich heritage, a heritage that comes largely through the efforts of many, many people . . . people who opened up the forests and farmed the land, people who sensed opportunities for successful commercial venture, people who established the manufacturing facilities whose diversity adds strength to today's economy, and the bankers, who provided both financial support and helpful counsel born through years of experience.

What lies ahead? To understand this we must look to the people of today, people who through their imagination, creativity, and, yes, hard work, are laying a strong foundation for the future.

There can be little doubt that changes will occur, that indeed, they will occur more rapidly than in the past. Response to those changes will determine the course of the future, just as past response has led people of the area to where we are today.

The financial industry has changed dramatically in the past several decades. Some have said that banking has changed more in the last ten to twenty years than in all the time prior to that. This signifies clearly that anticipation of change and response to it are keys to future growth and success. The Bank is prepared to meet the demands of the future with services, service, and above all, with people.

We look to the past as inspiration for the future, and to the future with confidence and anticipation. The future for NBT is the future of the area it serves.

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